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(54) Title: **HOST DEFENSE FACTOR X (HDFX)**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compositions and methods useful in medical prophylaxis and treatment of a mammalian subject before and after exposure of the subject to potentially lethal pathogens and other insults. More specifically, the present invention provides an isolated a natural host defense factor, or "HDFX", which enhances an animal subject's ability to withstand infection by any pathogen and a variety of insults. Pharmaceutical compositions containing HDFX and therapeutic methods involving administration of HDFX are also provided.

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